

# BOCES Instructional Technology Newsletter

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∞ November 2011 ∞

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## ∞ November Monthly Theme ∞

# Vocabulary Development

## Vocabulary Development: What Does the Research Say?

By Alanna Donohue

Bygone are the days when students were asked merely to look up words in the dictionary and write sentences for each one. Who even remembers those words after Friday's quiz anyway? If you want students to develop a robust vocabulary, here are a few ways to make that new vocabulary stick:

1. **Keep new words to a minimum.** For every 100 new words encountered, only about 5 of them are remembered. To add words to our vocabularies, we need to study each new word in depth.
2. **New words not only must be taught in context, but need to be used often.** Research shows that a typical student has to interact with a word a minimum of twelve times before it is learned...more for students with special needs. Our students need to hear the word, see the word, and use the word multiple times in order for it to stick. Every vocabulary word taught in your class has to reappear within your class, either in notes, conversation, or reading, and it has to reappear often. If you can get your colleagues to use those words in *their classes*, too, even better!
3. **Give students opportunities** to create their own definitions. Better yet, in addition to creating their own definitions have them create a visual to remind them of those definitions. A collage of bizarre and outlandish student behaviors just might help that struggling student remember the definition of "bedlam". Using two photographs of Simon Cowell, and making one appear ghostlike and slightly (more) evil will help a student remember "doppelganger." Each student could be responsible for one creation per unit of vocabulary study.
4. **Whenever possible, relate new words to words they already know.** Beyond using synonyms and antonyms, try to create unlikely relationships between new words. For example, ask your students if someone with a *lackadaisical* work ethic can ever feel *spry*. Or ask "Could a *virtuoso* be a *rival*?" (Beck)

Works Cited Beck. (n.d.). *Bringing Words to Life*.

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## Fox Meadow Instructional Technology Wiki

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Be sure to check the updates on the Fox Meadow Instructional Technology Wiki. Websites, Web2.0 tools, instructional videos, and other valuable resources are added regularly.

## ∞ Vocabulary Activities: SMART Notebook ∞

By Fatima Oliveira

**Keyword Select-** Create a matching column of the vocab word and definition. Students can physically drag them to the correct location.

**Crossword-** Have students create a crossword on the SMART Board when they have completed work early. They can create clues as well.

**Anagram-** Helps kids spell words correctly by moving the letters from scrambled form to their correct spelling. There are also clues available.

**Image select-** Students must select the correct vocabulary word that represents the image selected.

**Vortex-** Students must correctly place the vocabulary word in one of 2 categories. In Spanish I use it with masculine and feminine words or words that are opposites. If they put it in the wrong vortex, it will spit it back out.

## ∞ Instructional Technology Webinars ∞

A webinar is short for **web**-based **seminar**. It's a presentation, lecture, workshop or seminar that is transmitted over the web. Most webinars are free to participants. A key feature of a Webinar is its interactive elements -- the ability to give, receive and discuss information. Some webinars can be accessed as a webcast (the data transmission is one way and does not allow interaction between the presenter and the audience) at a later date. Check out these webcasts of previously recorded webinars.

[5 Coolest Things You Can Do On A SMART Board](#)

[5 Coolest Things You Can Do On A SMART Board \(Part 2\)](#)

[Twitter in Your Classroom](#)

[Prezi – Connecting Students, Teachers, and Professionals](#)

[SMART Notebook 101 Basics](#)

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## Vocabulary Resources

Below, you will find the helpful vocabulary resources discussed at this month's instructional technology meeting. Use these resources in your specific content area and/or with the "High Frequency Vocabulary Words of the Week!" If you create anything for the high frequency words, please share with all!

	Title	Website/Resource	Explanation
Fun Sites	Free Rice	<a href="http://www.freerice.com">www.freerice.com</a>	Vocabulary practice in MC form in different subject areas including World Languages, English and Social studies.
	Save the Words	<a href="http://www.savethewords.org">www.savethewords.org</a>	Adopt a word...just for fun.
Vocabulary Videos	Vocab Ahead	<a href="http://www.vocabahead.com">www.vocabahead.com</a>	Students learn new vocabulary by watching short videos, then practicing with on-line flash cards. Create customized lists for students to watch and drill from. Also possible for students to record and submit their own videos.
Web 2.0 Tool	Wordle	<a href="http://www.wordle.net">www.wordle.net</a>	Type or copy and paste any text into the program to create colorful word art. Frequency of occurrence is reflected in the size of the words. Great for identifying themes.
Enhanced Visual Dictionary & Thesaurus	Snappy Words	<a href="http://www.snappywords.com">www.snappywords.com</a>	Free visual dictionary and thesaurus
	Wordnik	<a href="http://www.wordie.org">www.wordie.org</a>	Everything about a word...all in one place. Definitions, examples, related words, pictures, tweets, etc.
Flashcards, Quizzes and Games	Quizlet	<a href="http://www.quizlet.com">www.quizlet.com</a>	<b>Make or Find Flashcards</b> <b>Use Powerful Study Tools</b> <i>Flashcard Mode</i> <i>Speller Mode</i> <i>Learn Mode</i> <i>Test Mode</i>
	Flashcard Machine	<a href="http://www.flashcardmachine.com">www.flashcardmachine.com</a>	Create, study and share online flashcards
Mixed Vocabulary Resources	My Vocabulary	<a href="http://www.myvocabulary.com">www.myvocabulary.com</a>	A free resource to enhance vocabulary mastery and written/verbal skills. Root word lesson plans, puzzles, word lists, test prep and assessment
	Merriam Webster	<a href="http://www.merriam-webster.com">www.merriam-webster.com</a>	Test your vocabulary level, word of the day, new words and slang

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## ☞ Mobile “App”lications ☞

Check out these apps! Download them on your smartphone or tablet.

### VocabAhead

A PROVEN, fun and intuitive way to learn hundreds of new words using humorous illustrations with audio. Dramatically improve your verbal score by improving your vocab quickly and efficiently. Goes along with the VocabAhead website (see vocabulary resources).



### Khan Academy

Do you enjoy learning from the Khan Academy?

- Browse the entire Khan Academy curriculum.
- Videos organized by subjects, sorted in curriculum order.
- Bookmark lessons for quick access.

## ☞ December Monthly Theme ☞ Writing Instruction

### Care to Share?

Please let us know if there is something you are using in the classroom that is really working with the students. Our next Fox Meadow Technology meeting is **12/7 at 2pm** in Fatima's classroom. Feel free to join us!

### Recommended Reading

*eVoc Strategies: 10 Ways to Use Technology to Build Vocabulary*

If you are looking for ideas on how to infuse some of the resources listed in this newsletter, check out *eVoc Strategies: 10 Ways to Use Technology to Build Vocabulary* by Bridget Dalton and Dana Grisham (found in the February 2011 issue of *The Reading Teacher*). Click on the image to be directed to a copy of this informative article.

